

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 IO-13 EB-07 /088 W

-----110803Z 034827 /14

P R 110800Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9822

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 4055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, SG, US

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ASSANE SECK: HUMAN RIGHTS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF A STATE 123224, B STATE 098034

1. SUMMARY: DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON SENEGALESE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSANE SECK, AFTER DEMARCHE ON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MEETINGS WITH VORSTER (REPORTED SEPTEL, AND IN REACTION TO MY DEMARCHE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SECK AND I DISCUSSED US-SENEGALESE RELATIONS WITHIN HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT. SECK APPLAUDED US MOVES TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH THE CONGO, AND TO OPEN AN INTERESTS SECTION IN CUBA. IN CLOSING, HE THANKED ME FOR MANNER IN WHICH THIS EMBASSY HAS KEPT HIM INFORMED OF US POSITIONS, AND NOTED THAT OUR RELATIONS HAVE SO IMPROVED OVER LAST THREE YEARS THAT WE NOW HAVE A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE ON WORLD ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.
END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSANE SECK AFTERNOON OF JUNE 9 TO MAKE DEMARCHES REQUESTED
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REFTELS A AND B(DEMARCHE ON MONDALE-VORSTER MEETING REPORTED SEPTEL, AND TO MAKE FAREWELL CALL. SECK LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, AND SAID THAT HE WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY NEW DEPARTURES IN US POLICY. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD SO IMPROVED OVER LAST THREE YEARS THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED MEANINGFUL DIALOUGE ON WORLD ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

SECK WAS SINCERELY PLEASED WITH NEW HUMAN RIGHTS DETERMINANTS IN US FOREIGN POLICY. HE SOUNDED CAUTIONARY NOTE, HOWEVER, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT US POLICIES WILL BE APPLIED REALISTICALLY TO THIRD WORLD, WHERE THERE IS OFTEN PROBLEM OF CONFLICT BETWEEN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE AND RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS. I REMINDED HIM OF EARLIER DISCUSSION IN WHICH I HAD DRAWN HIS ATTENTION TO THE SECRETARY'S UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I TOLD HIM HOW MUCH I HAD ENJOYED SERVING IN SENEGAL AND THE GAMBIA, WHERE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS ARE IMPORTANT, AND WHERE INSTITUTIONS AND TRADITIONS IN THEIR SUPPORT ARE COMPARATIVELY STRONG. SECK AGREED, BUT NOTED THAT IN MANY PRE-INDEPENDENCE AFRICAN SOCIETIES, TRADITIONAL RULERS HAD CONSIDERABLY MORE CONSTRAINT IMPOSED ON THEIR ABROGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAN AVERAGE MODERN THIRD-WORLD CHIEF OF STATE. IF THIS WERE THE CASE, I REPLIED, IT IS ALL THE MORE REASON FOR US TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THOSE STATES WHICH TAKE HUMAN RIGHTS SERIOUSLY.

3. SECK SAID THAT INFORMATION HE IS RECEIVING INDICATES THAT AMERICAN PRAGMATISM REMAINS STRONG CURRENT IN OUR NEW POLICY. HE CITED RECENT COMMENTS BY THREE FORMER US AMBASSADORS TO CONAKRY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN GUINEA. ALTHOUGH HE WELCOMES SUCH STATEMENTS, HE HOPES THAT WE WILL MAINTAIN OUR SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE IN GUINEA, WHICH HAS A STABLE, BUT PATENTLY REPRESSIVE REGIME. WITHOUT US PRESENCE, THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE AT ALL FOR CHANGE, AS WE REPRESENT THE ONLY INFLUENCE COUNTERVAILING THE COMMUNISTS. WITHIN A SIMILAR FRAMEWORK, HE IS ALSO ENCOURAGED BY OUR PLANS TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH THE CONGO, AND TO OPEN AN

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INTERESTS SECTION RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA.

4. IN CLOSING, SECK THANKED ME FOR THE EMBASSY'S ACTIONS IN KEEPING HIS MINISTRY INFORMED OF US POSITIONS, AND FOR SPECIAL DEMARCHES WE HAVE MADE ON A RANGE OF MATTERS, INCLUDING SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE ILO, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED A FREE AND FRANK DIALOGUE. I QUICKLY NOTED THAT I WAS CERTAIN MY SUCCESSOR WOULD WANT TO CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE IN THE SAME SPIRIT. SECK SAID THAT PLANNED TRIPS INCLUDING ONE TO THE LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT WOULD KEEP HIM OUT OF DAKAR FOR MUCH OF THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND MY SCHEDULED JULY 10 DEPARTURE, BUT THAT HE WOULD SEE ME AGAIN AT A FAREWELL DINNER HE TENTATIVELY PLANS TO HOLD FOR ME ON JUNE 20, OR, IF NOT-YET-FIRM NORTH AFRICAN TRIP SHOULD CALL HIM AWAY ON THAT DATE, ON JULY 7.

AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAKAR04055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770209-0142
Format: TEL
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770666/aaaacgaj.tel
Line Count: 113
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b460e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2186233
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAREWELL CALL ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSANE SECK: HUMAN RIGHTS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, SG, US, (SECK, ASSANE), (AGGREY, O RUDOLPH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b460e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009